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Chilean daily denies involvement with CIA

El Mercurio of Santiago, Chile, has denied it was the recipient of CIA funds (E&P, September 28, page 14). In a cable to E&P, Rene Silva, director of *El Mercurio*, said:

"A parliamentary group from the Democratic Party, in its campaign against the present U.S. administration, did not hesitate in using *El Mercurio* for their purposes, without any proof, that it had been one of the newspapers that had received financial aid from the CIA. An editor of *El Mercurio*, even though I have no par-

ticipation in the financial affairs of the newspaper, I know that its income has a normal and legal origin, known by all involved and carefully controlled by the legal and tax authorities of the country. Not even in our worse moments of political persecution, was there any shadow of doubt about such matters."